<u>REMARKS</u>

The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated March 25, 2009. Claims 41 to 51 are in the application, with Claims 41 and 46 being independent. Claims 52 and 53 have been cancelled, and Claims 41, 43, 45 to 48 and 50 have been amended. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesies and thoughtful treatment accorded Applicant's representative during the July 9, 2009 telephonic interview.

During the interview, Applicant's representative discussed the option of amending Claims 41 to 51 back to their prior version, as reflected in the October 7, 2008 Preliminary Amendment. The Examiner indicated that an RCE should be filed in order to have the prior version of the claims considered. Accordingly, Applicant has amended Claims 41 to 51 back to their prior version and to improve their form and readability, and has cancelled Claims 52 and 53, which were added in the January 21, 2009 Amendment. In addition, an RCE is being submitted herewith.

In the Office Action, Claims 41 to 53 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over U.S. Patent No. 7,397,572 (Horii) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,204,940 (Lin). Claims 52 and 53 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter, and without conceding the correctness of their rejection. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the remaining claims are respectfully requested.

Independent Claim 41 as amended generally concerns a color conversion method of converting a monochrome signal into a color space color signal on a color space independent of an apparatus. The method includes the steps of setting a tint adjustment

value used to adjust the monochrome signal to a desired tint desired by a user, acquiring color reproduction characteristics dependent on an image output apparatus and a recording medium, and converting the monochrome signal into a chromaticity signal of the color space using the tint adjustment value set in the setting step and the color reproduction characteristics acquired in the acquiring step. The method further includes the step of forming a color space color signal from the chromaticity signal converted in the converting step and a brightness signal according to the monochrome signal, and outputting the color space color signal. In the converting step, the monochrome signal is converted so as to map chromaticity points of black print color and white print color depending on the image output apparatus and the recording medium, and map a chromaticity point of the tint adjustment value for middle lightness excepting neighborhoods of black print color and white print color.

Thus, among its many features, Claim 41 provides for (i) setting a tint adjustment value used to adjust the monochrome signal to a desired tint desired by a user, (ii) acquiring color reproduction characteristics dependent on an image output apparatus and a recording medium, (iii) converting the monochrome signal into a chromaticity signal of the color space using the set tint adjustment value and the acquired color reproduction characteristics, (iv) forming a color space color signal from the converted chromaticity signal and a brightness signal according to the monochrome signal, and outputting the color space color signal, and that (v) in the converting, the monochrome signal is converted so as to map chromaticity points of black print color and white print color depending on the image output apparatus and the recording medium, and map a chromaticity point of the tint

adjustment value for middle lightness excepting neighborhoods of black print color and white print color.

The applied references of Horii and Lin are not seen to disclose or suggest at least these features.

As understood by Applicant, Horii discloses a printer and a printing method for printing a first image based on supplied first print data on a printing medium. When a predetermined operation mode is selected, second print data for a frame image is formed by arranging second images of several kinds obtained by applying image processing different from each other to the first image, in a predetermined arrangement pattern. The frame image based on the second print data is then printed on the printing medium. See Horii, Abstract.

However, Horii is not seen to disclose or suggest foregoing features (i) to (v).

In addition, Lin has been reviewed and is not seen to compensate for the deficiencies of Horii. In particular, Lin is not seen to disclose or suggest foregoing features (i) to (v).

Claim 41 is therefore believed to be allowable over the applied references.

In addition, independent Claim 46 is an apparatus claim which generally corresponds to method Claim 41. Accordingly, Claim 46 is believed to be allowable for the same reasons.

The other claims in the application are each dependent from the independent claims and are believed to be allowable over the applied reference for at least the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is deemed to define an additional aspect of the

invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

Regarding a formal matter, it is respectfully requested that the next Office Action indicate consideration of the Information Disclosure Statement filed May 28, 2009.

No other matters being raised, it is believed that the entire application is fully in condition for allowance, and such action is courteously solicited.

No fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 06-1205.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, California office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

/John D. Magluyan/
John D. Magluyan
Attorney for Applicant
Registration No.: 56,867

FITZPATRICK, CELLA, HARPER & SCINTO
30 Rockefeller Plaza
New York, New York 10112-3800
Facsimile: (212) 218-2200

FCHS_WS 3675226v1

- 9 -